



DEVELOPING BOUNDARIES FOR A DISTRICT-BASED ELECTORAL SYSTEM

City Council Meeting of August 16, 2017

Presented by,
Anthony J. Mejia, Chief City Clerk

Public Hearing No. 1

- Purpose:
 - Inform the public about the districting process and to hear from the community on what factors should be considered while creating district boundaries.





How Did We Get Here?

- June 5, 2017
 - The City received a letter alleging violations of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).
- July 19, 2017
 - The City Council adopted Resolution No. 7524, declaring its intention to transition to district-based elections.
 - Provides for 90-day safe harbor period in which to conduct four (4) Public Hearings to develop District Maps and adopt an Ordinance.

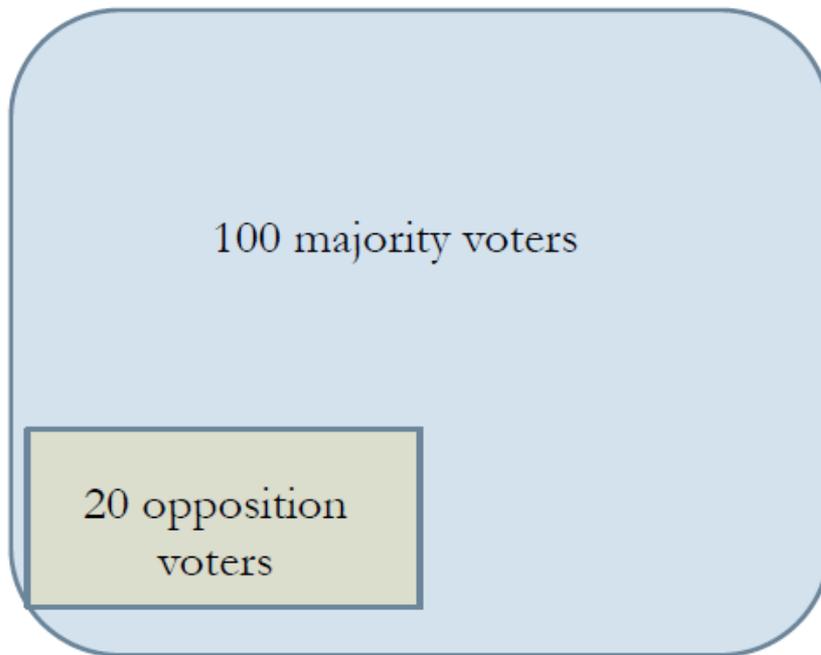


Community Outreach and Notice

- New Webpage: www.southpasadenaca.gov/districts
(Updated Daily) www.southpasadenaca.gov/districtsfaq
- Legal Noticing 10 days prior to each Public Hearing
 - La Opinión (Spanish)
 - World Journal (Chinese)
 - Korea Times (Korean)
 - South Pasadena Review
 - With instruction on how to obtain the translated notice materials and to request interpreter services to participate in the Public Hearings.
- Multiple articles in South Pasadena Review and Star News
- Facebook with expanded marketing
- National Night Out
- Community Groups
 - Meetings of Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, & Exchange
 - Notified to Chinese American Club and Vecinos Representatives

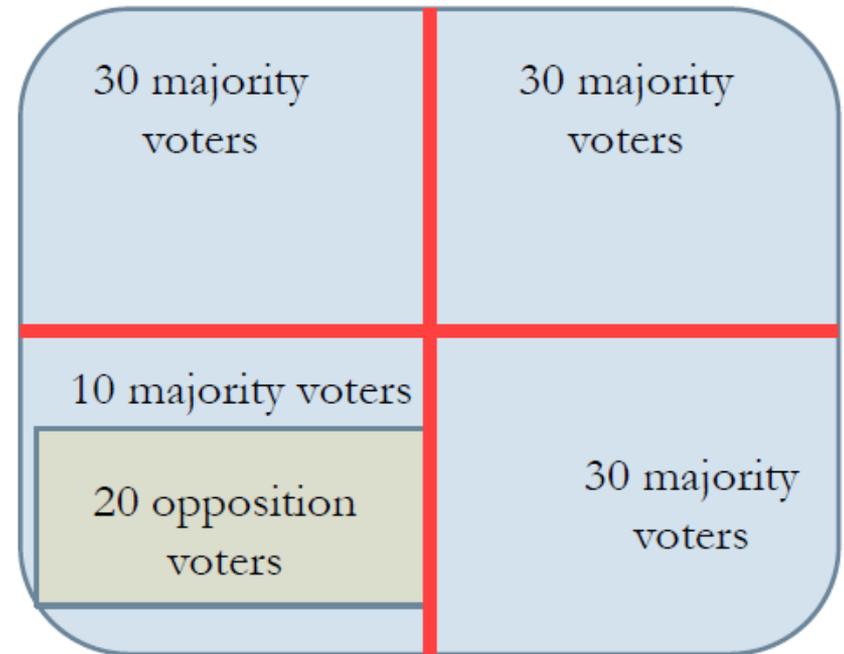
How Are District Elections Designed To Work?

At-Large Election



When one voting bloc significantly outnumbers another, the majority wins every at-large seat.

By-District Election



But if the smaller group is geographically concentrated, it can elect someone who shares their views to the Council or Board.



Meeting and Hearing Schedule

- September 6, 2017: City Council Meeting to seek community input and to provide direction on “communities of interest” and the composition of districts. Public Hearing #2: (**Day 49**)
- September 16, 2017: Saturday Community Workshop to seek input on the content of the draft maps and sequencing of elections. (**Day 59**)
- September 20, 2017: City Council Meeting to seek community input and to provide direction on the content of the draft maps and sequence of elections. Public Hearing #3 (**Day 63**)
- October 4, 2017: City Council Meeting to select a preferred district map and to adopt an ordinance to transition to district-based elections (Govt. Code 36937[a]).
Public Hearing #4 (**Day 77**)



Criteria for District Boundaries

Mandatory Criteria

- Equal Population Based on Census Data.
 - Not voter registration or eligible voting age population.
- Compliance with Federal Voting Rights Act.
- No Racial Gerrymandering

Traditional Criteria

- Topography

If there is a “neighborhood” with a concentration of a protected class group, it cannot be divided in a way that dilutes their voting strength.

and continuity of office.

But, Courts say that race cannot be the predominant factor. District boundaries cannot “cherry pick” street by street to place a protected class into the same district.



Criteria for District Boundaries (Cont.)

- Communities of Interest – A neighborhood or community of shared interest, views, or characteristics.
- Possible community feature/boundary definitions include:
 - School Attendance Areas;
 - Natural dividing lines such as major roads, hills, or highways;
 - Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks;
 - Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns; and
 - Shared demographic characteristics, such as:
 - Similar levels of income, education, or linguistic insolation;
 - Languages spoken at home; and
 - Single-family and multi-family housing unit areas.



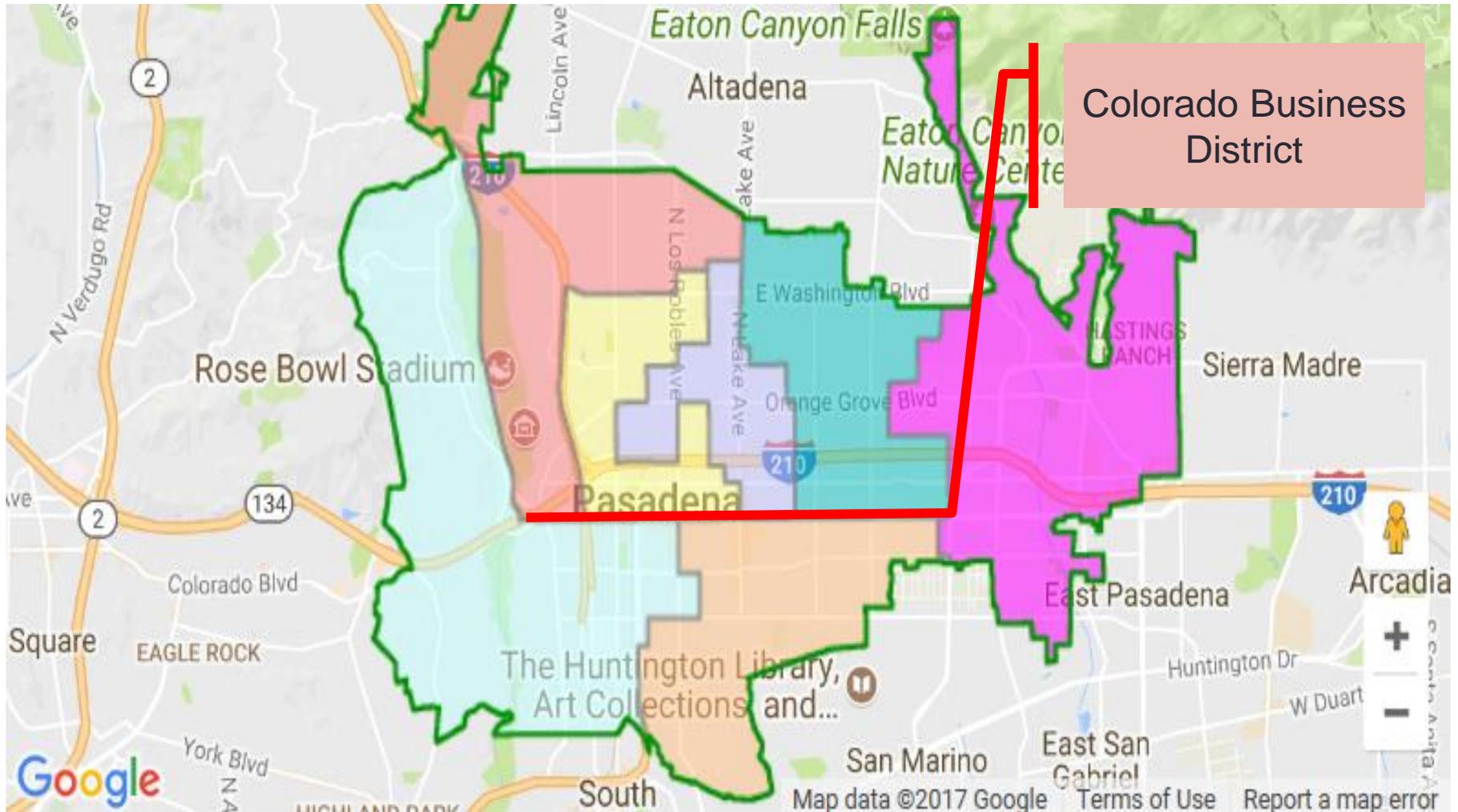
Overlooked Question

- Is it more beneficial to have the “Community of Interest” represented by one Councilmember or more than one?
 - For instance, some cities attempt to have Districts intersect at a singular point of interest, such as a major business district.
 - For instance, some cities have school attendance areas split between two or more Councilmembers so that each has an interest in representing the population within the area.

Example: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors



Example: City of Pasadena



Example: City of Riverside



(Click a ward number to view or print a detailed map)



Recommendation & Next Step

- Conduct a Public Hearing to receive public testimony on the composition of districts for a district-based electoral system pursuant to Elections Code Section 10010.
 - How do you define your neighborhood or community of interest?
 - What other surrounding neighborhoods share similar interests?

Next Step

- Summary of community input will be posted online ASAP.
- City Council Meeting of Sept. 6, 2017 – Public Hearing #2
 - Receive additional community input.
 - City Council direction on which specific criteria to consider.

